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Speak up & be heard

CONSUMER REGISTER lists summaries of major consumer proposals before Federal agencies. If you wish to submit written comments, include your name & address, state the name & *Federal Register* citation of the proposal on which you are commenting and explain your views briefly & clearly.

Purple dye

Food & Drug Administration has banned the use of Violet No. 1, a purple dye used in drugs, cosmetics, beverages, ice cream & bakery goods. (The dye also is used in stamping Federal inspection information on meats.) The ban is effective April 10. Products containing the color on the market now or manufactured before that date were not recalled.

The ban is based on preliminary data from 2 Japanese studies, which suggested that the food coloring could cause cancer.

The purple color, which has been used for the past 22 years, is being replaced temporarily by other methods of marking, including tags & brands & other colors.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 10, page 9077.

Cosmetics

Commissioner of Food & Drugs has determined (on the basis of data received by Food & Drug Administration) that titanium dioxide is safe & suitable for use in cosmetics—including cosmetics intended for use around the eye—and that pyrophyllite may be safely used for coloring cosmetics. Both color additives must meet certain technical & labeling specifications. This decision is effective June 4.

Any person who will be adversely affected by this decision may file objections by May 7.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 5, pages 8560 & 8561. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Microwave ovens

May 9 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposal to amend the performance standard for microwave ovens to improve the reliability of safety interlock systems & improve protection against radiation.

The present standard requires each oven to have 2 safety interlocks, both of which stop the generation of the microwaves when the oven door is opened.

The proposed amendments would achieve a higher degree of safety by making the oven inoperable if the interlocks fail.

The proposed amendments also would require that each of the safety interlocks (primary & secondary) meet limitations of emission (leakage) of microwaves. If the primary interlock should fail, the secondary would limit oven radiation emission at a specified—and safe—level.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 9, page 9027. Send com-

ments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Methaqualone

May 14 is deadline for comments on Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs' proposal to impose production quotas on the sedative methaqualone & prohibit more than one refill of a prescription for the drug.

On the basis of investigation & medical evaluation, Food & Drug Administration recommended tighter controls on methaqualone, & the narcotics bureau rated it one of the top 19 drugs with a high potential for abuse in this country. FDA also said that methaqualone can be fatal if taken with alcohol; it may, when abused, lead to addiction. This drug is sold under the following names: Quaalude, Sopor, Optimil, Parest & Somnafac.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 11, page 9170. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs, Justice Dept., Washington, DC 20537.

Glass in toys

June 12 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposed regulation to ban children's toys & articles containing glass.

Many injuries occur annually to children—ranging from serious cuts to scratches—as the result of playing with toys or articles containing glass. Consumer complaints have emphasized the hazards to children (especially to those under 8) presented by glass-containing toys.

The proposed regulations would ban all glass-containing toys or other articles intended for use by children under 8 years of age unless the items meet specified design & testing requirements. Provision is also made for cautionary labeling in the case of toys that might appeal to both younger & older children.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 13, page 9310. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Baby cribs

June 12 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposal to ban certain baby cribs that do not comply with proposed regulations [CONSUMER NEWS: March 15].

Since 1970, FDA has received reports of 133 children's deaths that, according to death certificates, were related to problems of crib structure. Two faults with cribs as they are now made—and which appear to have led to strangulation & suffocation of infants—are the width between slats & the gap between the mattress & sides of the crib. Other problems contributing to injuries from falls and lacerations

are inadequate latches on the drop side of the crib, insufficient rail height, ornaments & sharp corners.

The proposed regulations, which would be applicable to all types & sizes of baby cribs, include specifications for dimensions, rail height, spacing of crib components, hardware, construction & finishing. In addition, the proposed regulations would require detailed assembly instruction, identifying marks & warning statement as to size of mattress.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 13, page 9312. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Used cars

July 5 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's proposed motor vehicle safety standards for used cars. The proposal would establish criteria & procedures for the inspection of brakes, steering, suspension, tires & wheels.

The agency determined on basis of research that regulations concerning used cars is of major importance in the prevention of traffic accidents. It learned that 6% of all vehicle accidents studied were the result of mechanical failures. An additional 11% probably involved or were caused by wear on mechanical parts. Further analysis showed that 77% of these accidents involved the brakes, steering, suspension, tires & wheels.

Proposal of these standards, in compliance with the National Traffic & Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, marks the first step in establishing uniform Federal motor vehicle safety standards applicable to all used vehicles. The standards are intended for implementation by the states through vehicle inspection programs. They would not replace state inspection procedures that might be more stringent or comprehensive.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 2, page 8451. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Transportation Dept., Washington, DC 20590.

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